



SHELDON A. WASSERMAN

Milwaukee County Board
3rd District Supervisor

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COMMITTEES

Finance & Audit

Health and Human Needs

Parks, Energy & Environment



SHELDON WASSERMAN

3RD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2018

Dear Neighbors,

As the end of the year draws near, I want to provide you with an update on our district and how I've been working on your behalf. It has been an honor serving as your County Supervisor and I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to make improvements in our county.

Over the past month, as a member of the Finance and Audit Committee I've been evaluating the County Executive's proposed 2019 budget plan. This is more of a "status quo" budget compared to last year's, because the County Executive and the Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors' felt it was the best route, however the same problems still remain. Our Comptroller and others are worried that this budget does not adequately address the long-term concerns for our county. Closing the gap will not be easy, proposals such as cutting services or raising property taxes or increasing vehicle registration fees are ways we can accomplish this, however receiving increased shared revenue would be ideal since we are contributing \$400 million more annually to the State, but in turn, Madison has continued to decrease our state shared revenue.

When there is a problem, I'm the type of person who wants to solve it. I do not like the idea of kicking the can down the road on budgetary issues and I believe the best approach to these dilemmas is to take them head on and solve them. Delaying tough decisions often creates more problems down the road, while addressing them now will free up our time and resources to address future issues.

One proposal I have adamantly opposed in the upcoming budget is a request to increase the Emergency Room co-pay from \$200 to \$500 for county employees. The reasoning behind this proposal is that people with non-emergencies will re-evaluate going to the emergency room and go to Urgent Care or make a doctor appointment instead, but I believe this proposal will create a perverse incentive to avoid the charge and stay home if they are having chest pain or have a broken bone or their child has a fever. We would be risking the well-being of our County employees by making them second guess the severity of their emergency due to high co-pay at the E.R. If a county employee goes to urgent care and they do not have the equipment the patient needs, they will end up with the cost of urgent care as well as the \$500 co-pay at the E.R.

As always, please feel free to contact my office at any time with your comments and questions. Your input is extremely valuable to me and our district. Please fill out the survey questionnaire either online at **www.surveymonkey.com/r/p6plmwl** or mail it back to my office. If you would like to receive my e-newsletters please contact my office with your e-mail address.

Sincerely,

Sheldon A. Wasserman
County Supervisor, District 3



Supervisor Wasserman proposes a resolution at a full meeting of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

If you would like to receive periodic updates on County news and events in our community, sign up for my e-newsletter at:
www.milwaukee.gov/Wasserman

Mitchell Park Domes

The Mitchell Park Domes is one of the most pressing issues the county is facing today. Due to budget constraints and restrictive policies on how the county can generate revenue, the Parks Department faces a \$200 million backlog of capital improvement needs to parks facilities. In a recent survey I conducted in the district I discovered that just 10% of District 3 residents favored a one hundred dollar increase in property taxes to fix the domes. I introduced a resolution that called for a county wide advisory referendum that would ask voters if they support increasing the tax levy to spend \$70 - \$95 million on reconstruction of The Domes. The amendment did not move forward in this budget cycle however I will continue to explore the option in future budgets. I believe a budget issue of this magnitude needs to be placed on the ballot so we can learn how the majority of Milwaukee County wants to move forward on the matter.



The Mitchell Park Domes needs tens of millions of dollars for repairs. The Milwaukee County Parks Department currently has a \$200 million backlog of capital improvements needed to parks facilities all over Milwaukee County.

Oak Leaf Trail

On top of the grants for Lake Park Bridge, The County allocated \$700,000 for a two-phase improvement project for the Oak Leaf Trail, to re-pave the path, improve water drainage and build a new access ramp from N. Bartlett Ave. Additional funding came from the Department of Natural Resources Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Grant for \$168,000 and a contribution of \$175,000 from the Urban Ecology Center. This has been a major relief for users of the trail and the path looks great.



The portion of The Oak Leaf Trail that runs through District 3 has undergone major improvement projects with generous help from community partners.

Ravine Road Bridge



The State Department of Transportation awarded a \$2 million TAP grant to repair the bridge.

The Ravine Road Bridge in Lake Park is something I have been working on with the Lake Park Friends and the Milwaukee County Parks Department. The closed bridge has been an eyesore for years but finally the funding has been secured for the bridge to be repaired. The county won a \$2 million TAP grant from the State to repair and open the structure again for public use. This means that pedestrians/ cyclists/joggers will now have a safe path once again that connects the two halves of our historic park. I'm very glad that we'll be able to move forward with the Ravine Road Bridge project, and I want to thank Wisconsin Department of Transportation for their grant. I'm also grateful for the work of Milwaukee County Parks who applied for the funding.

The supporters and neighbors of Lake Park have been waiting a long time for this issue to be resolved, and we will be appreciative when the project is complete. There is still more work and details to be figured out but having secured funding brings us closer to completion. Lake Park is the crown jewel of the Parks system, and this landmark adds to the incredible beauty of the park.

Finance and Audit Committee



Supervisor Wasserman considering amendments to the County Executive's proposed budget during the Finance and Audit Committee's budget meetings.

Milwaukee County 3rd District Constituent Survey - Your Opinion Counts!

Milwaukee County: I need your help. Please complete the survey below, or online at the survey link, and mail back to my office by January 1st, 2018 to be entered into a raffle. I am raffling off two Traveling Beer Garden mugs and the winners will have their glasses delivered by me personally. Link to online survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/p6plmwl

1. One of the biggest crises facing Milwaukee County is that our Courthouse, Safety Building, and Medical Examiner Facility are falling into disrepair. The estimated cost to repair these facilities is at least \$200 million. Our county parks have at least \$300 million of deferred maintenance throughout the entire system. It is not possible for us to fund all of these ventures. Where do you think we should allocate our limited funding? Please rate the options 1-7 with 1 being highest priority and 7 being lowest priority.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> e. Public Museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Milwaukee County Courthouse repairs | <input type="checkbox"/> f. Domes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Safety Building | <input type="checkbox"/> g. Milwaukee County Transit System & Paratransit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Medical Examiner Facility | <input type="checkbox"/> h. Other? Please specify: _____ |

2. Should Milwaukee County hold binding referendums that let voters decide on whether or not to raise taxes in order to fund cultural institutions which require a high level of funding?

- ☐ a. Yes ☐ b. No

3. Should the road under Lake Park Bridge be re-opened to vehicular traffic as it previously was? Or should it be re-opened as a pedestrian/bike path only?

- ☐ a. Re-opened to vehicles ☐ b. Re-opened to pedestrians & bicycles only

4. Please provide your email address: _____

To Submit: Please mail to **Sheldon Wasserman, Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St. #201, Milwaukee, WI 53233**, email a copy to sheldon.wasserman@milwaukeecountywi.gov, or take the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/p6plmwl

Harley Davidson Festival

Summer came to a close with a bang this year. This year's Harley-Davidson festival brought 150,000 motorcyclists and an economic impact of \$95 million to the area. Milwaukee County Government received over \$125,000 for leasing Veterans Park and Bradford Beach



which will be used for our parks and help keep taxes lower. While I worked with Harley on this agreement it was my top priority to ensure there would be no negative environmental consequences from the festivities, which was a part of the deal they honored and fully committed. Rain was an unwelcome guest during the final weekend but Harley's anniversary parade was still an amazing spectacle as thousands of motorcyclists rode from 45th Street and Wisconsin Avenue to Veterans Park. Brady Street was closed off once again for Harley's block party which turned the famed street into an exhibit for Harley Davidson motorcycles and for the first time in more than a century, bikers descended on Bradford Beach to ride on an oval. We want to thank Harley for being a good corporate citizen and playing host to the tens of thousands of bikers who rode into our City and for doing a great job cleaning up afterwards.

Securing Healthy Food Options At Our Airport

General Mitchell International Airport currently has some of the highest fresh fruit prices of all major airports in the country. Vendors at the airport apply a 100 percent general markup on all items. I introduced a resolution which stipulates that any vendors who would like to operate at our airport may only have a reasonable markup on fresh fruit options. This resolution has no impact on our tax levy and would make healthy foods a more competitive option for travelers in our airport.

Finance and Audit Committee



Supervisor Wasserman at the annual budget public hearing speaking with Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson.



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For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:
county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Supervisor Wasserman in the 3rd District

Community Meeting

January 8, 2019 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 Milwaukee Public Library - East Branch
 2320 N. Cramer St., Milwaukee

Shorewood Community Meeting

February 11, 2019 • 7:00-8:00 p.m.
 Shorewood Village Hall
 2330 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood

Whitefish Bay Community Meeting

March 5, 2019 • 7:00-8:00 p.m.
 Whitefish Bay Village Hall
 5300 N. Marlborough Dr., Whitefish Bay

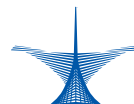
Supervisor Wasserman Invites You to Enjoy These FREE Milwaukee County Attractions



Thank You Thursday
 Free general admission to MPM on
 the first Thursday of every month.
 Visit mpm.edu for more info.



Family FREE Days & Special Holidays
2019: 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7.
 Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day.
 Visit milwaukeezoo.org for more info.



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM
FREE for all visitors
the first Thursday of every month
 Visit mam.org for more info.



FREE on Mondays from
9 a.m.-Noon for County residents
 Excludes major holidays.
 Visit milwaukeedomes.org for more info.

Charles Allis Art Museum

FREE for all visitors the first Wednesday of every month
 Visit charlesallis.org for more info.

VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM

FREE for all visitors the first Wednesday of every month
 Visit villaterrace.org for more info.